Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAN SA 01872 162312 Z

12
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11 XMB-07 COME-00 RSR-01

/136 W

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R 162245 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2834
INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
ZRULPALJ/ USCINCSO

S E C R E T SAN SALVADOR 1872

E. O. 11652 - XGDS (1)
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ES, HO, XK
SUBJECT: JET AGE DIPLOMACY, CENTRAL AMERICAN STYLE

1. FORMIN BORGONOVO TOLD ME TODAY (MAY 16) AT LUNCH THAT HE AND FORMIN BATRES HAD HAD A SECRET MEETING LAST WEEK IN NEW ORLEANS. EACH FLEW THERE, BORGONOVO WENT TO BATRES' HOTEL ROOM, THEY MET FOR TWO HOURS, AND THEN BORGONOVO FLEW HOME THE SAME DAY. THE RESULT, WHICH MUST NOW BE SOLD TO THEIR RESPECTIVE PRESIDENTS, WAS AN AGREEMENT TO SET UP A COMMISSION TO DELINEATE AS MUCH OF THE BORDER AS POSSIBLE. EACH SIDE WOULD APPOINT SEVERAL MEMBERS AND THE GROUP WOULD BE GIVEN ONE YEAR TO WORK OUT A SETTLEMENT. THEY WOULD WORK IN THE OPEN. BORGONOVO IS OPTIMISTIC; THE SITUATION IS NOT ARBITRATION NOR IS IT DIRECT NEGOTIATION, SO, WHILE NEITHER SIDE GOT WHAT IT WANTED, NEITHER DOES EITHER HAVE TO GIVE IN TO THE POSITION OF THE OTHER.

2. I ASKED HOW MUCH TROUBLE BORGONOVO IS HAVING CONVINCING MOLINA TO TAKE THE RISKS IMPLIED BY A SETTLEMENT WITH HONDURAS. HE BELIEVES

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PAGE 02 SAN SA 01872 162312 Z

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

MOLINA IS WILLING TO CHANCE IT. INDEED, THE EFFORT TO SELL THE MILITARY ON THE ADVANTAGES OF SETTLEMENT IS PROGRESSING. " I TELL THEM THAT IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY IT ISN' T PHYSICAL SIZE THE COUNTS, IT' S ECONOMIC IMPACT. I TELL THEM NEW YORK CITY IS SMALLER BY FAR THAN EL SALVADOR BUT LOOK AT ITS IMPORTANCE." HE ALSO MENTIONS THAT THE WORLD BANK AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE PREPARED TO MAKE LARGE LOANS TO CENTRAL AMERICA AS SOON AS THE AREA SHOWS ITSELF TO BE CREDIT WORTHY BY A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. WARMING TO THE SUBJECT, BORGONOVO SAID HE MAY BEGIN TO KEEP HIS FRIDAY AFTERNOONS FREE SO HE CAN JOIN THE TRADITIONAL FRIDAY AFTERNOON " HAPPY HOUR" AT THE ESTADO MAYOR AND THUS FUTHER HIS MISSION OF CONVINCING THE MILITARY.
CATTO

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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